

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/928,601	MORRISON, MICHAEL C.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tadesse Hailu	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the AMENDMENT filed on August 24, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. This Examiner's Statement of Reasons for allowance is in response to the outstanding persuasive argument filed by the applicant on August 24, 2004.
2. Claims 1 through 39 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention relates generally to online help systems, and in particular, to a method, apparatus, and article of manufacture for tracking a user's location and viewing history within an online help system. Similarly, Beezer et al (US Pat No 6,597,314), the closest prior art to the current invention, relates generally to methods and apparatus for displaying electronic documents. More particularly, Beezer et al relates to methods and apparatus for providing user access to help and settings features in a system for viewing electronic documents.

With regard to independent claims, 1 (method), 14 (system) and 27 (article of manufacture):

Similar to the claimed invention, Beezer discloses a help method, a help system, and a logic embodied for performing the method.

Comparing representative method claim 1 of the invention with the Beezer's help method, Beezer discloses a computer-implemented 200 method for presenting a series of titles **310** (help source file) of a document to a user (also see Fig. 3, column 4, lines 55-63),

As per the step of “maintaining a help”, the method of Beezer includes presenting (maintaining) a set of help topics or series of titles to be selected by a user (column 4, lines 55-63);

As per the step of “receiving request”, the method of Beezer includes receiving a signal corresponding to a user request for the help and settings control document (column 9, lines 16-17 of claim 2).

As per the step of “obtaining a help”, the method of Beezer includes determining (obtaining) the target part of the help and settings control document based on a navigational history associated with the user (column 6, lines 46-56, column 9, lines 6-10 of claim 1).

Beezer, however, does not teach, “the help history file comprises a cookie, generated by the local computer, wherein an identification for each previously opened file is stored in the cookie.”

Also while Beezer further teaches displaying a configured (customized) display of the help and settings control document (help source file) based on stored navigational history component 704 and user profile component 708 (column 7, lines 53-column 8, lines 22), but Beezer fails to teach explicitly the final step of “displaying, on the local computer, customized presentation of the help source file based on the information stored in the help history file”

Sandhu et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,985,953), cited herein to teach cookies. Sandhu, however, teaches a conventional use of cookies. That is, Sandhu is directed to methods and system for creating secure cookies (Abstract). The

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methods can be used to create, receive, and transmit secure cookies, confidential cookies, and authentication cookies (Abstract). Sandhu further discloses cookies contain strings of text characters encoding relevant information about the user. Sandhu, however fails to teach the history file comprises a cookie, generated by the local computer, wherein an identification for each previously opened help file is stored in the cookie as required by claim 1.

The documents cited, Laura Rintjema and Kara Warburton, "Crating an HTML Help System for Web-based Products," pp. 227-223, 1998 ACM, teaches at least the subject matter of claims 1, 14 and 27. Laura Rintjema and Kara Warburton (hereinafter "Rintjema et al") disclose a computer-implemented method for presenting HTML help file system identical with the current invention. The current invention and Rintjema et al are directed to the HTML help system incorporating *Java Script* in order the user of the HTML help system will be able to customize or formulate (Rintjema et al, page 227, 231) and store the information within the HTML help system at a local computer, wherein the remote server (accessing via Internet) could be used as a back-up venue but not as primary one (page 228). However, similar to the above prior art, Rintjema et al dose not teach, "the help history file comprises a cookie, generated by the local computer, wherein an identification for each previously opened file is stored in the cookie."

Also, the other document cited, Robin Green, "Productivity Tools for Web-Based Information, pp. 219-226, 1998 ACM, also teaches similar subject matter with the current invention. However, Robin also fails to teach, "the help history file comprises a cookie, generated by the local computer, wherein an identification for each previously opened file is stored in the cookie" as required in claim 1.

Thus, prior art neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of claimed elements in light of the specification.

CONCLUSION

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent application information retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private -PAIR or Public-PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private-PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please see pair-direct.uspto.gov web site. Should you have questions regarding access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:30 – 7:00 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Kincaid, Kristine, can be reached at (571) 272-4063 Art Unit 2173 and 2174.

Examiner Tadesse Hailu
Art Unit 2173 – Operator Interface
10/16/06

TADESSE HAILU
Patent Examiner
